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AT MY
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dealer with the best goods at lowest living rates.
I also keep a stock of fruits in their season.
HENRY GREEN,
Manchester Depot, Vt., Aug. 14th, 1874. 19-3m

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WEBSTER AND BENTON.

Harvey, in his Reminiscences of Daniel
Webster, gives the following interesting
sketch:—

One day after dinner, as Mr. Webster
was seated in his library, the servant an-
nounced Mr. Wilson of St. Louis, and
John Wilson came into the library. Mr.
Webster at once rose and greeted him.
Narrating the visit to me, he said:

Mr. Wilson was a gentleman whom I
had known more or less for a quarter of a
century; a lawyer of somewhat exten-
sive practice, with a good deal of talent;
a man of very violent prejudices and
temper, who had spent most of his public
life, after he had reached manhood, in
violent opposition to Col. Benton. It
was not so much a hostility to Col. Ben-
ton's democracy as it was a personal feel-
ing as bitter and malignant as any that ever
existed between two men. It was notori-
ous in St. Louis that when Col. Benton
went on the stump, John Wilson would
always be there to meet him, and abuse
him in the most virulent terms, and that
Mr. Benton would return the fire. I had
not seen Mr. Wilson for a good many
years; and only met him occasionally in
court. He came to me now a broken
man, prematurely old, with a wrecked
fortune, and after some conversation, he
said:

I am going to emigrate to California in
my old age, Mr. Webster; I am poor;
have a family; and although it matters
but a trifle to me, for the brief time that
remains to me, if I am poor, yet there are
those who are dear to me, whose condi-
tion I might improve by going to a new
country to mend my fortune. My object
in calling on you is to trouble you for a
letter to some one in California, merely
to say that you know me to be a respect-
able person, worthy of confidence.

After expressing my regret that he
should feel obliged to emigrate to such a
distance—for then it looked like a for-
midable undertaking to go to California
—I asked him if he was fully determined.
Yes, said he, I have made up my mind.
Then I set about thinking what I could
do for him. I saw no way to give him
aid. I had no particular influence with
the Government at that time, and finally
I said:

I am sorry to say, Mr. Wilson, that so
far as I am aware, there is not a human
being in California that I know. If I
were to undertake to give you a letter to
any one in California, I should not know
to whom to address it.

That makes no difference, said he;
everybody knows you, and a certificate
that you know me will be the most valu-
able aid I could have.

I will write one with great pleasure;
although you probably overrate the in-
fluence of my name in California, I want
to give you something that will be of
benefit to you. Let me see, Mr. Wilson.
Col. Benton almost owns California, and
he could give you a letter to Fremont, and
others, that would be of first rate service
to you.

He gazed at me half surprised and half
inquiringly, as much as to say: Can it be
possible that you are ignorant of the rela-
tions between Col. Benton and myself?

I understand what you mean; I am
perfectly well aware of the past difficul-
ties between you and Mr. Benton, and the
bitter personal hostility that has ex-
isted. But I want to say to you that a
great change has come over Col. Benton
since you knew him. His feelings and
views are softened; we are much older;
our fiery blood is cold and changed. It
is hardly worth while for men, while
they are nearing the maximum of human
life, to indulge in these feelings of enmity
and ill will. It is a thing that we ought
to rid ourselves of. Col. Benton and I
have been engaged in a war of words,
as you and he have, and up to two
years since, we went out of the same
door for years without as much as saying
good morning to each other. Now, I do
not know a man in the Senate to whom I
would give with more surety of having a
favor granted than to Col. Benton. He
feels that age is coming upon him, and
he is reconciled to many of his warmest
opponents.

In thy servant's dog, replied Wilson,
that he should do this thing? I would not
have a letter from him. I would not be
bothered to him for a favor—not to save
the life of every member of my family!
No, sir! The idea of it makes me shudder.
I feel indignant at the mention of it.
I take a letter from Mr. Benton!—

Stop, stop! said I; that is the old man
speaking in you; that is not the spirit in
which to indulge. I know how you feel.
And while he was raving and declaring
by all the saints in the calendar, his pur-
pose to accept no favor from Col. Benton,
I turned round to my desk and addressed
a note to Benton, something like this:

Dear Sir, I am aware of the disputes,
personal and political, which have taken
place between yourself and the bearer of
this note, Mr. John Wilson. But the
gentleman is now old, and is going to
California, and needs a recommendation.
I know nobody in California to whom I
could address a letter that would be of
any service to him. You know every-
body, and a letter from you would do
him a great deal of service. I have as-
sured Mr. Wilson that it will give you
more pleasure to forgive and forget what
has passed between you and him, and to
give him a letter that will do him good,
than it will him to receive it. I am go-
ing to persuade him to carry this note, and
I know you will be glad to see him.

Wilson got through protesting, and I
read him the note. Then I said:
I want you to carry it to Benton.
I won't! he replied.

I coaxed and scolded, and reasoned,
and brought over consideration, death,
eternity, and everything else, to bear, but
it seemed of no use.—Said I:

Wilson, you will regret it.
After a while he got a little softened,
and some tears flowed, and at last I made
him promise, rather reluctantly, that he
would deliver the note at Col. Benton's
door, if he did not do any more. He told
me afterward that it was the bitterest

pill he ever swallowed. Col. Benton's
house was not far from mine. Wilson
took the note, and as he afterward told
me, went up with trembling hands, put
it with his own hands into the hands of
the girl that came to the door, and ran
away to his lodgings. He had been hard-
ly half an hour at home, trembling to
think what he had done, when a note
came from Col. Benton, saying that he
had received the card and note, and that
Mrs. Benton and himself would have
much pleasure in receiving Mr. Wilson
at breakfast at nine o'clock the next
morning. They would wait breakfast for
him, and no answer was expected.

The ideal said he to himself, that I am
going to breakfast with Tom Benton!
John Wilson, what will people say and
what shall I say? The thing is not to be
thought of; and yet I must; I have de-
livered the note and sent my card; if I
don't go now, it will be rude; I wish I
hadn't taken it; it doesn't seem to me as
if I could go and sit there at the table.

I lay awake, said he afterward to me,
that night thinking of it, and in the morn-
ing I felt as a man might feel who had
sentenced a death passed upon him, and
was called by the turkey to get up for
his breakfast. I rose, however, made my
toilet, and after wavering a great deal
went to Col. Benton's house. My hands
trembled as I rang the bell. Instead of
the servant, the Colonel himself came to
the door. He grasped me by both hands
and said: Wilson, I am delighted to see
you; this is the happiest meeting I have
had for many years. We have been call-
ing each other hard names, but really
with no want of mutual regard and con-
fidence. It has been a mere foolish polit-
ical fight, and let's wipe it out of mind.
Everything that I have said about you I
ask your pardon for.

We both cried a little, and I asked his
pardon, and we were good friends. We
talked over old affairs and spent the morn-
ing till twelve o'clock in pleasant con-
versation. Nothing was said of the letter
until it was departing. He turned to his
desk and said: I have prepared some let-
ters for you to my son-in-law and other
friends in California, and he handed me
nine sheets of foolscap.

It was not a letter, but a ukase; a com-
mand to every person to whom these
papers shall come, greeting; it was to
the effect that whoever received them
must give special regard to the wants of
his particular friend, Colonel John Wil-
son of St. Louis. Everything was to give
way to that. He put them into my hands
and I thanked him and left.

Mr. Webster continued: Col. Benton
afterward came to me and said: Webster
that was the kindest thing you ever did.
God bless you for sending John Wilson
to me! That is one troublesome thing
off my mind. That was kind, Webster.
Let us get these things off our minds as
fast as we can. We have not much long-
er to stay; we have got near the end; we
want to go into the presence of our
Maker with as little enmity in our hearts
as possible.

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off my mind. That was kind, Webster.
Let us get these things off our minds as
fast as we can. We have not much long-
er to stay; we have got near the end; we
want to go into the presence of our
Maker with as little enmity in our hearts
as possible.

Mr. Webster continued: Col. Benton
afterward came to me and said: Webster
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